



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 24, 2011

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Vending Machine Manufacturer or Other Interested Party,

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a revision to the ENERGY STAR specification for refrigerated beverage vending machines. The current ENERGY STAR Version 2.1, Tier 2 efficiency criteria have been in effect since July 2007. Further, in August 2012, the new federal minimum efficiency standard established by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for refrigerated beverage vending machines takes effect (Federal Register, FR 74 44914, August 31, 2009). Depending on the machine type, these standard levels are equal to or more stringent than current ENERGY STAR Version 2.1 requirements.

The ENERGY STAR labeling program for refrigerated beverage vending machines has been a remarkable success. When the first specification was launched in 2004, standard vending machine designs used as much as 13-15 kWh/day. In just a few years, manufacturers of these machines have reduced energy consumption by more than 50%. Today, ENERGY STAR qualified machines use 3-7 kWh/day. This is a testament to ENERGY STAR partners' commitment to energy efficiency.

At this juncture, EPA is weighing the opportunity for the ENERGY STAR program to deliver additional energy savings. According to DOE's Final Technical Support Document (TSD), the installed base of refrigerated beverage vending machines is estimated to be 1.6 million in 2014, and when the new standard takes effect in 2012, 190,000 existing machines will be replaced each year with new machines meeting the federally mandated minimum efficiency requirements.

Based on industry discussions, the U.S. market for refrigerated beverage vending machines has become saturated. As such, machine owners and operators are opting to remanufacture and upgrade machines instead of purchasing new ones. This growth in remanufacturing has spurred innovative approaches for reducing energy consumption in response to customer demands for ENERGY STAR.

Over the last several years, ENERGY STAR vending machine partners have made great strides in upgrading machine designs to improve the energy performance of older refrigerated beverage vending machines. Based on discussions with industry stakeholders, EPA believes that most of the current inventory of machines will meet ENERGY STAR efficiency requirements by late 2012.

While the new federal standards address only new machines, the current ENERGY STAR program covers both new and remanufactured vending machines. Absent a federal standard for remanufactured machines, EPA believes that ENERGY STAR's role could continue to be important in differentiating top performers and preventing backsliding. However, given the ENERGY STAR program's commitment to delivering performance that is equal to or better than standard models, establishing a new ENERGY STAR specification for remanufactured machines that is less stringent than the federal standard does not appear to be an option. Accordingly, EPA is seeking input on a potential new ENERGY STAR specification for remanufactured vending machines equal to the minimum standard beginning in late 2012 or early 2013. In particular, EPA is interested in any performance information or remanufacturing approaches that impact the ability of remanufactured units to meet the proposed levels in the near future.

Also, in light of the forthcoming DOE minimum efficiency standard, EPA anticipates that vending machine manufacturers will seek to improve the efficiency of their new products. As such, there may continue to be an opportunity to recognize the more efficient new machines with the ENERGY STAR label. EPA is seeking input from stakeholders on any manufacturing trends that might support a future ENERGY STAR level more stringent than the upcoming new minimum efficiency standards.

Absent any feasible alternative, EPA anticipates sunsetting the ENERGY STAR labeling program for new vending machines or both new and remanufactured machines.

EPA welcomes stakeholder comments on the options being considered for revising the ENERGY STAR refrigerated beverage vending machine specification. Please submit comments by **April 18, 2011** to vendingmachines@energystar.gov. Shortly following the comment deadline, EPA will issue another letter with its final decision along with any important dates and next steps, as appropriate.

Please note that as of January 1, 2011 all newly submitted vending machines are required to be third-party certified for purposes of ENERGY STAR qualification. For more information on the new third-party certification requirements go to www.energystar.gov/3rdpartycert.

In closing, EPA appreciates the efforts of refrigerated beverage vending machine partners to advance a cleaner environment through the ENERGY STAR Program and applauds your success in moving the market towards greater energy efficiency. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9046 or via email at kent.christopher@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Kent". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Christopher Kent, U.S. EPA
ENERGY STAR Specification Development